

## “Are You a Christian Hybrid?” Part 1 - 1 Corinthians 10:14 – August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015

- Today's teaching will be part one of a new series I've titled in the form of a question, “Are you a Christian Hybrid?”
- I am keenly aware that I will need to explain what I mean by hybrid in the context of our text here in the rest of 1 Corinthians 10.
- In terms of biology, it's the crossbreeding of plants or animals and in terms of technology, its combining gas and electric in cars.

According to Merriam-Webster's Dictionary, a hybrid is “something that is formed by combining two or more things.”

- 1) an offspring of two animals or plants of different races, breeds, varieties, or species
- 2) a person whose background is a blend of two diverse cultures or traditions

<http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/hybrid>

- Now, with this definition of a hybrid, I would like for us to use it in the context of what the Apostle Paul says concerning idolatry.
- I would suggest that when idolatry has taken up residence in the life of a Christian, it could eventually create a hybrid Christian.
- This because, idolatry is something that's formed in our Christian lives by combining two or more things, which creates a hybrid.

- Perhaps this would be a good time to also define idolatry. In other words, what does idolatry look like in the life of a Christian?
- Simply put, idolatry is when anything or anyone else in my life has become the object of my affection, attention and adoration.
- In other words, any hobby, any sport, any activity, anything or anyone that is more important to me than Jesus Christ is idolatry.

The Dictionary of Bible Themes, by Martin H. Manser, defines idolatry as, “The worship or adoration of anyone or anything other than the LORD God. Idolatry includes the worship of other gods, such as those of the nations surrounding Israel, images or idols and the creation itself.”

- So, with both of these definitions we are now better able to answer the question that's before us, of what is a Christian hybrid.
- A Christian hybrid is someone who has essentially blended carnality with their Christianity and as such, have combined the two.
- As one so aptly put it, there's too much of the world to be joyful in the Lord, and too much of the Lord to be happy in the world.

- Enter our text today here in 1 Corinthians 10:14, such that, the Apostle Paul by the Spirit of God, true to form, hits this head on.
- It's important to keep in mind that the church of Corinth was filled with carnal Christians, who in effect, had too much world in it.
- When God delivered the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt, a type of the world, He still had to get the Egypt out of the Israelites.

- It's for this reason that I'm approaching this series by asking specific questions as it relates to the worldly idolatry in our lives.
- Perhaps better said, have we blended the carnality of idolatry with our Christianity thus, creating what I call a Christian hybrid?
- My hope for us as a church corporately, and as Christian's individually, is that we will allow the Holy Spirit to search our hearts.

### **1. Are you prioritizing anything or anyone else as being more important than Jesus Christ? (Verse 14)**

14 Therefore, my dear friends, flee from idolatry.

-v14 Paul very simply says, therefore, my dear friends, flee from idolatry.

- While I realize fleeing from idolatry seems like a firm grasp of the obvious the truth of the matter is we do the exact opposite.
- More specifically, instead of fleeing from idolatry, we are pursuing of idolatry and often times it can happen in a very subtle way.

- Our carnal curiosity can propel us in the wrong direction and the problem with that is it's not long before we're right on the edge.
- This is evidenced when a Christian wants to know how far they can go without sinning instead of fleeing any appearance of sin.
- Some Christians toy with idolatry by moving too dangerously close to the edge of it instead of fleeing as far as they can from it.

- When this happens, all it takes is one misstep and you're over the edge. You cross the line because you were so close to it.
- I think of Abraham and his nephew Lot, whom God greatly prospered, so much so, that it was causing problems with their men.
- Abraham then gives Lot the first choice as to where he'd like to relocate his flocks to, and Lot chooses Sodom and Gomorrah.

Genesis 13:10-13 - 10 And Lot lifted his eyes and saw all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered everywhere (before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah) like the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt as you go toward Zoar. 11 Then Lot chose for himself all the plain of Jordan, and Lot journeyed east. And they separated from each other. 12 Abram dwelt in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelt in the cities of the plain and pitched his tent even as far as Sodom. 13 But the men of Sodom were exceedingly wicked and sinful against the LORD.

- What's striking about this is the progression we see with Lot who, to his own peril, pitched his tent dangerously close to Sodom.
- Here's what I'm thinking, in verse 10, we're told Lot looked toward Sodom, then in verse 12, he pitched his tent toward Sodom.
- Then in the next chapter, Genesis 13:12, we read how that Lot has now moved to Sodom and that he is now living in Sodom.

- It should come as no surprise that six chapters later, in Genesis 19:1; we're told that Lot has become a civic leader in Sodom.
- Here's where I'm going with this, we, like Lot, pitch the tent of our Christian lives too dangerously close to the Sodom of idolatry.
- When we do, it's only a matter of time before we live our Christian lives in that place, all because we didn't flee in the first place.

- We need look no further than to how this all ended for Lot in order to realize that so too will this be how it ends for us as well.
- In the end this cost Lot everything in that Lot lost everything; he lost his wife, his wealth his home and his daughter's innocence.
- Would to God that we would take heed the Word of God and be numbered amongst those of whom it's said, they fled idolatry.